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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.

FIELD MEMORANDUM SCS #1148

RE: Service Policy on Demonstra-
tions and Tests of New Soil
Conditioners

DATE: May 21, 1952

TO ALL RANKING FIELD OFFICERS:

The development of Krilium shows that substances exist which have marked favorable effects on the physical properties of soil, even when used in relatively small quantities. Companies other than Monsanto are now interested in commercial possibilities in the field, and we can assume that soil conditioners similar to Krilium will be available soon from a number of sources. A situation is developing where the Service is receiving requests for cooperation in testing and demonstrating an increasing variety of soil conditioning materials. Even now the list is imposing. Exploratory tests have been or are being made at Beltsville on such widely variant soil conditioners as Vinsol, Methocel, Flotal, Ultra-Wet, Actumus, and Krilium. Wider testing under field conditions requires judgment with respect to the kind and amount of aid the Soil Conservation Service should give to such projects, particularly since the state experiment stations and BPISAE are already developing the field.

The present situation is concerned mainly with the testing and demonstration of the conservation uses of Krilium, but Service policy would apply equally to all proposed soil conditioners. The policy will be one of cooperation with both public and private interests. However, it will be based on a limitation of Soil Conservation Service aid to one of the following categories:

1. Exploratory testing of new conditioners at Research locations;
2. Field trials only when there is sufficient information about a product to indicate a probability that its use is effective and practical.

It will be necessary to organize the investigations on soil conditioners so that we can use our time and efforts to best advantage, avoid duplication, and make the sum of the

investigations readily available as they progress. I am, therefore, appointing a central committee of R. D. Hockensmith, R. E. Uhland, and C. S. Slater, Chairman, to act on all proposals for tests and demonstrations of soil conditioners. Research investigations will be developed on the basis of approved work plans or amendments thereto. Proposals for field trials under Operations personnel should meet approval at the Regional Office and be cleared through the central committee.

Robert M. Slater

Chief

